

JOE BOB GOLDEN

JOE H. TONAHILL

LAWYER

TONAHILL BUILDING

JASPER, TEXAS 75951

DUDLEY 4-2501

December 2, 1964

Dick West, Esq.
Editorial Department
Dallas Morning News
Dallas, Texas

Dear Dick:

It's been a year now since I took up semi-residence in Dallas in the Jack Ruby trial and started getting reacquainted with a great host of old friends and acquainted with a lot of new ones, including yourself, Jack Krueger, my old college chum Joe Dealey, and those elegant craftsmen of yours who maintain general quarters in the Criminal District Courts Building for the duration. I refer to Hugh Aynesworth, Tony Zoppi, Carl Freund, Jack Beers, Griff Singer, Don Martin, Larry Dum, Tom Dilliard, John Flynn, Larry Grove, Kent Biffle, Joe Laird, Louis Harris, Clint Grant, Glenn Moore, Bill Winfred, Don Millsap, James Burmingham, John Gedde, and many, many more, of course.

Over the years of my trial work in the past I have done some litigating in the courts of Dallas, but not too much; however, I have had occasion to enjoy the incomparable process service and accommodations of Mr. Bill Shaw, the District Clerk, and his highly efficient organization of deputies and assistants.

In addition, it has been my pleasure and privilege to enjoy similar outstanding work in behalf of Sheriff Bill Decker and his deputies in this regard.

Both Mr. Shaw and Mr. Decker have impressed me with the highly efficient organizations they operate in behalf of the citizenry of Dallas County. I suppose

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JASPER V. WEST 505

December 1965

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Dear Dick:

It's been a year since I moved up semi-residence in Dallas from San Antonio. Ruby and I had started getting reacquainted with a great host of old friends and acquainted with a lot of new ones, including yourself, Jack Nease, my old college chum Joe Dealey, and those brilliant craftsmen of yours who maintain general jurisprudence in the Criminal District Courts Building. From the former, I refer to Hugh Aynesworth, Tom Dugay, Carl French, Jack Beers, Griff Singer, Don Ward, Jerry Dunn, Tom Dilliard, John Flynn, Larry Crisp, Mont Biffle, Joe Laird, Louis Hardie, Cliff Crum, Glenn Moore, Bill Winfred, Don Milleson, James Birmingham, John Gedde, and many, many more of creative.

Over the years of my association with the past I have done some litigating in the environs of Dallas, but not recently, however, and I am anxious to enjoy the services of your office. Your accommodations of Mr. Bell and the rest of the crew were highly efficient, pleasant and comfortable circumstances.

In conclusion, it has been a great privilege to call upon you and your office. Thank you, Sheriff Bill.

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I have dealt with half of the District Clerks, their deputies, and Sheriffs and their deputies in the State of Texas at one time or another in my career. I respect them all as they all have hard jobs to perform and are, in my opinion, underpaid and unappreciated.

I must say, however, in passing that Decker and Shaw seem to me to be highly dedicated men with the idea of service being uppermost in their minds and the minds of their deputies.

While genial Judge Joe B. Brown and I had many, many differences during the trial, nevertheless I developed a very strong feeling of personal affection for Joe because of his complete human qualities and extreme patience with both the State and defense counsel. I wouldn't be worthy of my profession if I couldn't appreciate Joe Brown's good qualities irrespective of the fact that I have disagreed and will continue to disagree with him so enormously in the future concerning some of his rulings during the trial.

My old friend Henry "Hank" Wade and his staff of assistants, more especially Jim Bowie, Bill Alexander, Frank Watts, and Coy Turrinton, who I had the privilege of ~~working with~~--or should I say ~~ducking and dodging~~--throughout the trial, have all left deep imprints upon my memory. While I have known Hank for perhaps twenty years and have great respect for his ability as a prosecutor and admiration for his qualities of a man, husband, and father, I came to know him much better and get well acquainted with these gentlemen as well as some others on his staff. They do their jobs well, fight hard, fight to win.

Naturally I hope to prove that they led Judge Joe into a host of errors, but as the advocate that I am and

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in behalf of the principles I am fighting for in this case and the appellate efforts, I could do no less. Once during the trial someone asked me what I thought of Hank Wade. I responded immediately and quite ~~spontaneously~~ that I had rather fight Sonny Liston than to fight Henry Wade in the courtroom. I still mean that.

Chief of Police Jessie Curry and his staff of officers and the detectives and Dallas police couldn't have been nicer to us than they were. We hope to reverse the case on one of the main grounds of testimony of five of the officers, but be that as it may, they were gentlemen at every turn and seem to be well trained police officers. That is a department that the citizenry of Dallas can well be proud of.

As I say, I may have to disagree with them, and will disagree with them in a number of respects upon the appeal. But, nevertheless, the people of Dallas have every reason to appreciate them.

The church services my family and I attended there certainly gave us that spiritual leavening that ~~can be so meaningful to one working under so great stress.~~

Finally, Dick, the great hospitality of your growing and fascinating city was marvelous and incomparable. This is especially true of the personnel of the stores, restaurants, and hotels, the clerks, waitresses, cab drivers, and the many others who were so kind to us which will always be appreciated.

Please do not judge my gratitude of your town and your neighbors as being in any respect a weakness of

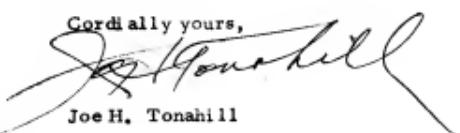
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my position that it was unfair to Jack Ruby and Dallas as well for his trial to be held there.

Dick, I don't know when our trails will cross again. But it is always a pleasure to visit with you and on your next tour of the East woods, drop by and I will cook you some barbecue and introduce you to my friends over here.

With all good wishes, I am

Cordially yours,


Joe H. Tonahill

JHT:vm

JOE H. TONAHILL

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JOE BOB GOLDEN

December 3, 1964

A. C. Green, Esq.
Editorial Department
Dallas Times Herald
Dallas, Texas

Dear A. C.:

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